

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
March 6, 2013

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (99/109)
Gregg Marsh (4/5)
Maria Greenberg (34/39)
Paul Bigness (2/3)
John Hitzel (34/35)
Fred Pazona (22-27)
Katherine Ariens (22/24)

Present

John Hitzel
Maria Greenberg
Fred Pazona
Gregg Marsh
Paul Bigness
William Dryburgh
Katherine Ariens

County Representatives

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director
Michael Koenig, Resource Coordinator
Mike Norton, Harold Avenue Recreation Center
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Coordinator
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guests

Christine Taylor
Edwin Saeger

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Dryburgh at 1:00 p.m.

• **Addition to Agenda:**

- Maureen Broderick, Recreation Coordinator at the Charlotte County Sports Park, distributed pocket schedules for the Rays and Charlotte Stone Crab games and explained about the Major and Minor League Camp and games played at the park.
- Promotions at the Sports Park: the ESPN bus, the scheduled Cal Ripken 15th Pediatric Cancer Head Shave, and the four televised games.
- Attendance at the games is slightly down due to cold weather.
- Maureen talked about the various responsibilities of the three partners working the sports park and invited the members out to see the games.
- Fred Pazona mentioned that the regular players are sometimes in a split squad and it affects attendance and causes disappointment for the fans.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 9, 2013 Field Trip and the February 6, 2013 Joint meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – Parrot Magazine, Semi-Pro Football
- Fred Pazona – Pool closing affecting pool participant numbers and validity of these reports

3. New Business

- Discuss the February 6, 2013 Joint Meeting
 - John Hitzel explained what occurred at the Joint Meeting, the motion was unnecessary, and noted that he didn't think the meeting served a useful purpose.
 - Fred Pazona talked about the pre-scripted motion

- Maria Greenberg felt that the motion was written so he could get the motion out properly.
- Katherine Ariens noted that the other two committees wanted buy-in for the plans already underway and for the options; mentioned it was an unnecessary motion being made. Katherine asked for clarification of the motion at the meeting, but did not receive it, which is why she voted “no”. She felt corrosion was being applied at the meeting. It was an uncomfortable situation.
- Commissioner Doherty stated that he felt uncomfortable with the motion also. He suggested a pre-agenda meeting between chairs before the next joint meeting would be helpful to make sure that this type of event doesn’t happen again.
- Discussion of the Placida Overflow Parking/Expansion Ideas
 - Bill Dryburgh talked about the possibility of expansion at the end of the parcel which is proposed to include two boat ramps. Bill talked about a public/private partnership for this parcel. He asked that David Milligan be in attendance at the next meeting to discuss if it is feasible.
 - Katherine Ariens asked if camping sites are included in the concept and Andy Stevens answered that some are included in the Master Plan for the Park System.
 - Fred Pazona asked if a kayak will be able to launch at this location.
 - John Hitzel feels we should attract everyone possible to this location.
 - Commissioner Doherty asked if a charrette can be planned to identify intended uses for the property.
- Snowbird Classic – Mike Norton
 - Mike Norton was in attendance to answer questions about the Snowbird Classic.
 - Why are there so many games in Sarasota County? Andy Stevens mentioned that we negotiated with Sarasota County because there were scheduling issues; the majority of the games were in Charlotte County. We added games to our Charlotte County fields and there were expanded teams. Economically, we have lost nothing as a result. Lights on the fields would help open up the schedule to have more games in Charlotte County.
 - Mike Norton talked about bringing in Big Ten teams in 2015; school board fields would need to be used.
 - Fred Pazona talked about reciprocity with the Board of Education; programming will be a continuing issue. Kelly Shoemaker will find out the definition of reciprocity, as it applies to the school board.
- 2013 Recreation Trails Program Grant Application – Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park – Mike Koenig
 - Mike Koenig commented that the department previously applied for the grant for property next to the landfill on Zemel Road, Charlotte Flatwood, but it needed to be withdrawn because it was completing with other county projects. The property was purchased through the Florida Communities Trust and has land management requirements. This item is going to the BCC on March 26th for permission to apply for the grant to use the matching funds through the RFP process, to make the Charlotte Flatwoods a more useful park. Birding in this area is turning into a huge eco-tourism opportunity. Application is due March 31, 2013.
 - A public meeting will be scheduled.

MOTION: A motion was presented to support the 2013 Recreation Trails Program Grant Application for the Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park by Katherine Ariens, seconded by Maria Greenberg and unanimously approved.

- Andy Stevens mentioned that we have received 45 million dollars for Environmental Lands in the past years.

4. Old Business

- Parking Meter Update – Mike Koenig
 - Working with a third party vendor to make available to visitors the ability to pay for parking on your cell phone; you can download an application from ParkNow to set up an account, at no cost to the county, service fee paid by the user.
 - Englewood Beach has been a challenge, plans to add an additional meter, possibly pulling meter from Hathaway Park. One million people visit Englewood Beach a year.
 - Katherine Ariens asked if there was an issue if someone uses the parking spaces after 9 p.m., which Mike Koenig noted is a violation because the park is closed. Andy Stevens noted that we meet with the sheriff's office twice a year and will discuss this issue with them.
 - Mike Koenig stated that we are working diligently with the company to identify problems with the machines.

5. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council's next meeting is set for March 13th at 5:45 p.m. at Mid-County Regional Library, Administration Conference Room.
 - Maria Greenberg attended last month; quick meeting. Rays tickets were distributed.

6. Member Issues

- Coach Cookie – Mike Koenig is working on the agenda item
- Fred Pazona – swimming pools, feels there are missed opportunities, Oyster Creek Pool closed for 3 weeks and staffing issues. Wants to know if ideas discussed at this meeting are ever implemented. Asked about reciprocity with the schools when our pools are under repair. Tommy Scott will give an update for the next meeting.
- Kelly Shoemaker will clarify with staff on reciprocity issues with the school district.
- Maria Greenberg stated that security is a big issue with using schools.

7. Director's Report – Tommy Scott

- Tommy Scott, new Director of Community Services, introduced himself and relayed his background to the members.

8. Citizen Input

- Chris Taylor and Ed Saeger talked about their kayaking experiences in the county and other counties and stated the other counties have wonderful ramps for kayakers. They would like to see a separate kayak entrance from the boaters, kayak holders and nicer restrooms in the area. We will put Chris in touch with the lady from Lee County for information on kayaking.
- Andy Stevens mentioned the Blueway Trails system and provided Chris and Ed with a copy of the brochure after the meeting. Andy also noted that two new kayak launches are planned; one in Prairie Creek.
- Ed Saeger enjoys kayaking, would like to have a nice area to load and unload, and noted it is so nice to hear the ideas and plans for the county
- Katherine Ariens asked about access for a public launch in Alligator Creek. Andy Stevens

mentioned that in the Parks Master Plan it could be included on a small piece of parkland.

- We will contact Chris Taylor for her input on the Parks Master Plan when the group is initiated.

9. Announcements - None

10. Upcoming Events - Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:32 p.m. and unanimously approved.

CC: Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3
Commissioner Stephen Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Raymond Sandroock, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator